

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for generating a simulated network, the method

5 comprising:

accessing a network discovery database for a managed network,
wherein the network discovery database comprises device information and
connectivity information for a plurality of devices of the managed network; and

10 automatically generating a build file describing the simulated network
based on the network discovery database.

2. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein the automatically
generating the build file comprises:

15 extracting device attributes for devices of the managed network from the
network discovery database;

determining personalities for the devices based on the device attributes;
and

writing the device attributes and the personalities to the build file.

20 3. The method as recited in Claim 2 wherein the device attributes
comprises: a device type, network connectivity information, a device
configuration and a device operating system name and version.

4. The method as recited in Claim 3 wherein the determining personalities for the devices based on the device attributes comprises:

determining whether a personality exists for a device based on the device type and the device operating system of the device;

5 if the personality exists, selecting the personality; and

if the personality does not exist, creating a personality for the device.

5. The method as recited in Claim 4 wherein the creating the personality for the device comprises selecting a personality from existing

10 personalities based on the device type and the device operating system name and version.

6. The method as recited in Claim 4 wherein the determining personalities for the devices based on the device attributes further comprises

15 attaching the device attributes for the device to the personality.

7. The method as recited in Claim 3 wherein the network connectivity information comprises a neighbor discovery protocol table for the device.

20 8. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein the build file is for use by a network management simulator to simulate a network.

9. The method as recited in Claim 3 wherein the device attributes further comprise event information.

10. The method as recited in Claim 9 wherein the automatically
5 generating the build file further comprises configuring the event information for the devices.

11. A computer-usable medium having computer-readable program code embodied therein for causing a computer system to perform a method of
10 for generating a simulated network based on a managed network, the method comprising:

accessing a network discovery database for a managed network,
wherein the network discovery database comprises device information and connectivity information for a plurality of devices of the managed network; and
15 automatically generating a build file describing the simulated network based on the network discovery database.

12. The computer-usable medium as recited in Claim 11 wherein the automatically generating the build file comprises:
20 extracting device attributes for devices of the managed network from the network discovery database;
determining personalities for the devices based on the device attributes;
and

writing the device attributes and the personalities to the build file.

13. The computer-usable medium as recited in Claim 12 wherein the device attributes comprises: a device type, network connectivity information, a
5 device configuration and a device operating system name and version.

14. The computer-usable medium as recited in Claim 13 wherein the determining personalities for the devices based on the device attributes comprises:

10 determining whether a personality exists for a device based on the device type and the device operating system of the device;
if the personality exists, selecting the personality; and
if the personality does not exist, creating a personality for the device.

15 15. The computer-usable medium as recited in Claim 14 wherein the creating the personality for the device comprises selecting a personality from existing personalities based on the device type and the device operating system.

20 16. The computer-usable medium as recited in Claim 14 wherein the determining personalities for the devices based on the device attributes further comprises attaching the device attributes for the device to the personality.

17. The computer-usable medium as recited in Claim 13 wherein the network connectivity information comprises a neighbor discovery protocol table for the device.

5 18. The computer-usable medium as recited in Claim 11 wherein the build file is for use by a network management simulator to simulate a network.

19. The computer-usable medium as recited in Claim 3 wherein the device attributes further comprise event information.

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20. The computer-usable medium as recited in Claim 9 wherein the automatically generating the build file further comprises configuring the event information for the devices.

15 21. A system for generating a simulated network, the method comprising:

means for accessing a network discovery database for a managed network, wherein the network discovery database comprises device information and connectivity information for a plurality of devices of the

20 managed network; and

means for automatically generating a build file describing the simulated network based on the network discovery database.

22. The system as recited in Claim 21 wherein the means for automatically generating the build file comprises:

means for extracting device attributes for devices of the managed network from the network discovery database;

5 means for determining personalities for the devices based on the device attributes; and

means for writing the device attributes and the personalities to the build file.

10 23. The system as recited in Claim 22 wherein the device attributes comprises: a device type, network connectivity information, a device configuration and a device operating system.

24. The system as recited in Claim 23 wherein the mean for
15 determining personalities for the devices based on the device attributes comprises:

means for determining whether a personality exists for a device based on the device type and the device operating system of the device;

means for selecting the personality if the personality exists; and

20 means for creating a personality for the device if the personality does not exist.

25. The system as recited in Claim 24 wherein the means for creating the personality for the device comprises means for selecting a personality from existing personalities based on the device type and the device operating system.

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26. The system as recited in Claim 24 wherein the means for determining personalities for the devices based on the device attributes further comprises means for attaching the device attributes for the device to the personality.

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27. The system as recited in Claim 23 wherein the network connectivity information comprises a neighbor discovery protocol table for the device.

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28. The system as recited in Claim 21 wherein the build file is for use by a network management simulator to simulate a network.

29. The system as recited in Claim 23 wherein the device attributes further comprise event information.

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30. The system as recited in Claim 29 wherein the means for automatically generating the build file further comprises means for configuring the event information for the devices.